



# December Newsletter 2023

**“Inviting ALL to Live  
the Gospel through  
Faith, Love, and  
Compassion”**

10970 185th Street West ♦ Lakeville MN 55044 ♦ 952-435-5757 ♦ [www.familyofchrist.com](http://www.familyofchrist.com)



The theme for this Advent and Christmas season is based on the tree of Jesse. Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each week of Advent, we will look at the Bible stories about someone on Jesus's family tree and we will hang an ornament symbolizing the Jesse Tree up front. And as we move towards Christmas we will begin to see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations. Rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward Hope found in the birth of Jesus.



## **Advent and Christmas Worship**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Advent Band**  
**9:30am**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Holden Christmas**  
**9:30am**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Pageant**  
**9:30am**  
**Trinity Care Ctr**  
**1:30pm**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Service**  
**4:00pm**  
**No morning Worship**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Worship Service**  
**9:30am**



### Advent Band, December 3rd

Join us as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with a Sunday filled with instrumental music.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG with COCOA, COFFEE, AND COOKIES

Sunday, December 10, 6:00 pm

You are invited to the Second Annual Caroling Event. Join Jon and Solveig Englund at their home for a fun evening of music making. Text Solveig for her Lakeville address: (480) 406-4066

### Christmas Pageant Jesse's Tree

Sunday, December 17

#### REHEARSALS:

Sunday, Dec 3rd: 10:30-11:30  
Sunday, Dec 10th: 10:30-11:30  
Saturday, Dec 16th: 9:30 –11:00

#### PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, December 17th: 9:30 during worship

Contact Pastor Brent or Dana with questions.



### TRINITY CARE CENTER GIFT TREE and PARTY

December 17th at 1:30pm

Join us in one or two ways as we support the residents at Trinity Care Center. Pick a stocking from the gift tree in the narthex, then buy and wrap a gift/s for that person.

**Please bring the labeled wrapped gift/s to church by December 10th.**

Join in on helping the residents celebrate the season delivering the presents to them, singing carols at the party and enjoying refreshments as we get to know the residents on **Sunday, December 17th at 1:30.** Some folks can meet at church at 1:00 to help load up the gifts to bring over. Come dressed in festive wear.

Please sign up on the clipboard so we know how many can help at the party.

#### 2024 Statement of Intent Pledge Cards:

If you have not already turned in your pledge card for 2024 they are available from the church office or online. Please contact Linda at [linda@familyofchrist.com](mailto:linda@familyofchrist.com).

#### Women's Bible Study

Monday, December 4

The October Women's Bible Study will held at 10:00am on Monday, December 4 at Family of Christ. For additional information contact Linda Bartz **All women are welcome! Invite a friend.**



## Advent Luncheon and Fundraiser for 360 Communities December 9th at 11:30am

On December 9<sup>th</sup> we will have our Annual Advent Luncheon and Fundraiser. This will be a potluck event with \$5 donation. In addition to a potluck item, please bring 6 or more treats.

Please sign-up on the clipboard or go online on the Sign-up Genius.

### Raffle Basket Donations


Raffle Tickets will go on sale on Dec 3rd after worship service. You can also purchase tickets the day of the event. You do not have to be present to win.

Last year we had number of baskets and we are hoping to exceed that record this year.

### Mission of the Month

#### FAMILY OF CHRIST COMMUNITY FUND

Helping and encouraging people of Family of Christ and those around us is an important part of family of Christ. Each year we collect donations for this fund so we can help those in need and encourage one another in faith. Please consider making a donation to this fund or buy some gift cards and send them to church.

**RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**Tuesday, December 5  
11:30am to 5:30 pm**

To donate blood, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
Contact Glenda Lind for more information.

### Tanzania Ministry Update

Thank you for your generosity. Because of your gifts we have raised the following funds:

Secondary Scholarships \$8,054

Medical Scholarships update coming soon

Iringa Hope \$1,490

*\* Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives!*



### DEADLINE FOR 2023 GIVING:

Please note all gifts for 2023 need to be received in the office by **Wednesday, December 28th.**

Online gifts need to be in the system by **Tuesday December 27th.**

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Linda before December 22nd.

**Thank you for all your gifts to Family of Christ.**

### Special Appeal

In early October we shared that our giving has been down for the year. Thank you for your continued generosity to Family of Christ. We continue to collect donations to help us end the year in a strong financial position.

To give please use the envelope at the usher's stand, go online or scan the QR code.





### **Dates to Remember**

- Sun. Dec 3: Worship/Program Practice  
Advent Band**
- Wed. Dec 6: Confirmation/Youth Group**
- Sat. Dec 9: Advent Luncheon**
- Sun. Dec 10: Worship with Holden Prayer  
Program Practice  
Caroling Sing-a-long**
- Wed. Dec 13: Confirmation/Youth Group**
- Sat. Dec 16: Program Practice**
- Sun. Dec 17 : Christmas Program  
Trinity Care Ctr Party**
- Wed. Dec 20: Youth Christmas Party**
- Sun. Dec 24 : Christmas Eve Service**
- Wed. Dec 27: No Programming**
- Sun. Dec 31: Carols Service**

### **Vision Statement**

*Family of Christ invites ALL to Live the  
Gospel though Faith, Love, and  
Compassion*



### **Our Core Values F-A-M-I-L-Y:**

- Fait**
- Acc**
- Meaningful relationships**
- Imp**
- Love**
- Youth**